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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6581

BILL NUMBER: HB 1238

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 11, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Elective study of Bible in public schools.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Denbo

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill provides that a school corporation may include in its curriculum as an elective a study of world literature, including the Bible and other similar great works of literature. The bill requires the Indiana State Board of Education and the Professional Standards Board to jointly develop and report to the legislative council by January 1, 2004, a plan to implement the "academic study of religion in secondary schools".

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Currently, Biblical Literature is offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the curriculum area of English/Language Arts. In addition, World Literature is also offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the same curriculum area. The Department of Education already provides curriculum assistance for courses contained within English/Language Arts (including World and Biblical Literature). There should not be additional cost to the state regarding this portion of the bill.

The Department of Education and the Professional Standards Board would likely have a minimal increase in administrative costs associated with this bill.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Currently, school corporations are already allowed to offer World and Biblical Literature electives via the curriculum area of English/Language Arts. It is not likely that the provisions of this bill would result in additional administrative time or cost to school corporations.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education, Professional Standards Board.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

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